Investigation in the connection was undertaken in 1103. It was proposed to construct a diversion weir at a place near Chiklai, above Echipara and in the first stage of its development to run the waters by a channel into the Kurumali river for kole irrigation purposes. The scheme contemplated in the second stage was to construct further distributaries to command the Virippu and Mundakan ayacuts.

A survey was undertaken, the weir site was located and an accurate theodolite survey was completed from weir to the saddle at Edumban-Kavalai, a distance of 6 miles. From this portion to the Kurumali river is easy country and the Survey for the first stage is therefore almost completed.

Survey of the Sandalwood trees in the Forests.

170. Mr. V. V. Anantapadmanabha Ayyar.— Wil the Government be pleased to state :—

whether the Government has made any attempt to make a survey of the Sandalwood trees in the Cochin Forests and the economic possibilities of the same ?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—No, because there are no Sandalwood trees of natural growth in the Cochin Forests except a couple of them on the submit of the Kolakkattumudi peak in the Nemmara sub-range.

The Thalikuzhi Coupe contract.

171. Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.— Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(1) to whom is the Thalikuzhi coupe, Vaniampara range, Trichur Taluk, given on contract for felling trees ;

(2) when was it given ;

(3) what was the quantity estimated for extraction ;

(4) what is the area of the coupe ;

(5) whether there was any time-limit fixed for felling ;

(6) how many extensions were given and on what grounds;

(7) what are the species of timber to be felled under the contract ;

(8) the market rate for each species ;

(9) whether the coupe was given on tender or by private negotiations ;

(10) if it was given by tender, whether there was any higher bidding ;

(11) if so, what is the difference between the highest bidding and the contract rate ?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—(1) Mr. P. S. Krishna Ayyar.

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